

The Paleo Times

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The Official Publication of the Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology

EMSP SOAPBOX

By David Lukens & Don Howell

If you have any articles, comments, or need to communicate with me I can be reached through the following: dmslukens@yahoo.com (personal) or contact me at 636-751-8746 (cell).

It is with great sadness that we learned that Joe Bolser, one of the founders of EMSP and one of its long time members passed away just before the March Meeting. He was a fun, caring, and energetic person and he will be missed by all of us. All our thoughts are with his wife Addie.

In the newsletter, I have attached a number of stories or remembrances of Joe sent in by members of the club.

REMINDER: I-40/64 will be closed between I-270 & I-170, if you use this route to get to the meeting, remember that you will need to take a different route.

Next meeting

Friday, April 11th at 7:30 pm in the New Earth and Planetary Sciences building at Washington University (see more details below). This month's speaker will be Matt Forir who will speak about developments concerning River Bluff Cave in Springfield, MO. The cave is a treasure trove of Pleistocene bones, ancient bear dens, pollen,

etc. The website for the cave is:
www.riverbluffcave.com/

Important Reminder: For anyone attending Paleotrek this summer, you will need to meet at 7:00pm before the April meeting in our meeting room. Stephanie Novak and Carl Campbell will review the protocol for this summer's mapping program.

Business for the next meeting:

- Planning for an April field trip
- Update on possibility of a Coon Creek Trip at the end of May
- Discussion of possible road trips to either Burpee Museum (northern ILL) to see their T-Rex or a trip to River Bluff Cave.

IN MEMORY OF JOE

Joe and Addie made the annual trek to Montana each summer to help find and excavate dinosaur specimens with Paleotrek. A few summers ago, towards the end of the day, they both became lost (this was an annual occurrence). They were tired and running low on water. We could contact them by radio and could hear Addie in the background berating Joe. We asked Joe to describe where they were. He replied that they were in a coulee and couldn't see any landmarks. We told them to climb out and look for the "Big Butte". They did and called us back on the radio. I told Joe to put the "Big Butte" on his left side and start walking west. Joe replied that there were too damn many big buttes everywhere and which one should he pick. It

turned out OK; they saw the fence line, followed it to the road and we picked them up, tired and thirsty.

Carl Campbell

When Jim and I joined the club, I remember that Joe and Addie were most welcoming to us. They were happy to share their fossil experiences and answer any questions we had about fossil collecting. When there was a show, like the Gem and Mineral Show, or any other, they were always there to help set up, man a booth, or do anything else that would be helpful. Their enthusiasm for all aspects of collecting spilled over on us. They have been a great asset to the club throughout the years.

Glori L'Ecuyer

I was shocked and greatly saddened to learn of Joe's death. As one who has known Joe for so many years, I feel a profound sense of loss. The club will not be the same without him. Both he and Addie have been a fixture in the club since its early days, and it has been the better for it. They have devoted countless hours to manning the club table at gem and mineral shows as well as donating specimens for sale or auction.

Joe was a true dedicated fossil collector who never lost that delight in finding new specimens. I fondly remember how he and Addie could be relied upon to bring in new finds from their most recent collecting trips to show us at the club meetings. I looked forward to seeing their latest treasures, and often turned green with envy at some of them.

He was always cheerful, friendly, and eager to give advice and encouragement to new members, including myself once upon a time.

Nothing that I can say will lessen the pain and sorrow that we all are feeling at his loss, but Joe will live on in our hearts and our memories as a true friend, a good man, and a role model for fossil collectors everywhere.

Sincerely,
Mike Fix

Thinking about my memories of Joe ... I remember the warm smile he always had, his welcoming ways and his sense of humor. I can never remember being greeted by Joe with anything but a smile.

I remember Joe being the first person that ever encouraged me to start fossil preparation. I think back maybe 15 years ago or more when I was a new member to EMSP and Joe and Addie had a booth at North County Recreation Complex for a Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show demonstrating fossil preparation. I didn't know anything about fossil preparation Joe invited Christine Smith and me back behind the display and handed us dental picks and guided us in the use of an air chisel and showed us how to start using it. He encouraged us without criticism and had us both hooked in a short time, thinking back I'm sure we made (at least I made) many mistakes but Joe smiled and told us how great we were doing. I went on the purchase many of the tools needed for fossil preparation and use them often and remember Joe and his encouragement when I sit down to prep fossils.

I will always remember Joe, as a warm sharing, smiling individual a great addition to our fossil group. What Joe brought to this group we must always preserve by welcoming others to join in our hobby, sharing our knowledge and remember to smile just like Joe.

Thanks for letting me, **Pat Eicks**, share what I remember most about Joe.

I've known them for ~15 years. I always looked forward to hearing about their summer adventures-which usually involved fossil collecting, or worldwide travel.

I have a lot of memories from Montana. Joe and Addie always took the scenic route up there in their truck-bed camper. They stayed in a campground in Jordan that often lacked hot water and didn't seem to mind. They were both early to bed, and woke up ready for yoga and exercise. Joe could be seen doing jumping jacks right in the camper! Joe was kind. He even took dino hunting time out to help the older lady that ran the campground.

He was quite lucky, or skilled depending on your perspective with seeing bones, teeth, etc that people had already walked over. I think I heard "oh look, a claw" three times when I was nearby!

Joe was also very agile while walking on the rough terrain. I have a theory that he and Bruce Wacke from Kansas City were both Navy seals with how well they can scale cliffs and hike for miles despite being well into their 70's- although Joe wouldn't have been the map reader in his unit. I don't think he ever figured how to use his GPS unit. There have been a few times when I had to track down Joe and Addie after they wandered up a canyon for a few miles because they had of course found a good fossil. Thank goodness for walkie-talkies....

I hope I can enjoy my retirement as much as they have. Joe and Addie have seen a lot of sites. Addie has even recently hiked up to Machu Pichu in Peru. I think Joe went with her once for a similar adventure.

Joe also had a sense of humor. He told me that he used his "clueless old person look" to receive permission to collect everywhere across the country. I remember Joe specifically saying he pulled that one for a chance to collect some Green River material.

-abby Lee

I came to St. Louis about thirty years ago and attended my first club meeting around that time. I didn't know anyone at the meeting and must have looked out of place. A club member came up to me and introduced himself. It was Joe. He welcomed me to the meeting (no one else did) and invited me to participate in an upcoming field trip. A week later I had attended my first trip to Hannibal quarry and I was hooked on the club and the hobby. That was the kind of person Joe was; kind, considerate, always willing to help. Over the years Joe and I became close friends. His ability to share his enthusiasm for fossils, whether it be at a club meeting, collecting trip or the rock show booth was something I always admired. He treated the Poropat family as his own and we shared that feeling. My family and I will miss Joe and will always remember our western travels together.

It is hard to find the words to describe Joe. Every time that you saw or talked with him or Addie, they

were always happy, enthusiastic, and interested in what you were doing. Or better yet, wanting to know what new things you had found or any new places you had been to. It didn't matter if you were 50 years old or 10 years old like my daughter. Joe was still interested in you and what you were doing. Both Joe (and Addie's) efforts over the years helping the club, working the tables at the shows, and assisting in whatever way they good has helped to make the club what it is.

When I first started with the club (only 4 years ago) Joe was one of the first people to introduce himself to me. Joe and Addie are also the reason why I started going on the Paleotrek trips to Jordan, MT in the summer. I can remember shortly after joining the club, coming to the first meeting after summer, and them walking in with their box of finds which included the most perfect Tric toe bone you have ever seen and a piece of Tric jawbone with teeth. When I asked Joe how he had found it, his answer was "Oh, it was laying there on the surface". When I went the next year, I couldn't believe how active they were hiking up and down the coulees and leaving many of us in the dust, wheezing and panting.

It is hard to accept that Joe will no longer be there at the meetings or hiking with us in the summer in Montana, or sitting around the Fellman's Motel in the evening talking. He was always capable of making your day better, no matter what was going on. His enthusiasm for fossils, collecting, and learning is something he has passed onto untold numbers of people through the club and his daily life. He will be deeply missed by all of us who knew him.

David Lukens

Thanks / Congratulations

Thanks to those who provided me with information on the last meeting, as I was unable to stay due to business.

Thanks to Clarence Zacher for the DVD presentation last month on Teratorns.

Congratulations to Peggy Cole who won the Venus clam fossil and the Bruce Stinchcomb book.
Thanks to everyone else who bought raffle tickets.

Treasurers Report

Thanks to Pete For presenting the Treasurers report at the last meeting.

Upcoming Events/ Field Trips

March Field Trip was not planned due to rainy weather.

April Field Trip – Don Howell will lead a field trip on Saturday April 19th, to the area of Highway M and Route 21. Addition details will be provided at the next meeting.

Lee Creek Mine (Eastern N.C.) – The 5 slots for the spring trip have been filled.

Coon Creek (Tenn.): We are trying to confirm our spot for the May 31st weekend. If so, we will collect at Parson's quarry (Devonian material) on Friday (quarry is only open weekdays). You will have to sign up by April meeting with non-refundable \$15 per person. If you cannot attend the meeting, let one of the officers of the club know and get your money in.

Annual EMSP Picnic – Reservations have been made for the shelter at Kirkwood Park for Sunday July 27th, 2008. Details will follow, as the date gets closer. It is a great opportunity to meet, talk, and have fun with other club members. We will also have a fossil swap for anyone who is interested.

We will have a booth Nov 7-9 at the Stratford Inn Rock & Fossil show (Fenton). We will have 2 - 8ft long tables costing us \$130 to rent. This will give us plenty of time to make our displays and price the fossils. So look through your stuff for items to donate or if you are out collecting this summer, pick up a few more for the club.

Paleo-shorts

-Original and summary articles provided by members of EMSP. Where possible, I have tried to add in website where you can read more.

From David Lukens

27 February 2008,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7264856.stm>

The largest fossilized marine reptile known has been found on the island of Spitspergen in the Arctic. The 150 million year old sea monster is among 40 different fossil reptiles found on the island since 2006. The pliosaur was estimated to be 50 feet long, which makes it 20% larger than the Kronosaurus from Australia, which was the previous record holder. The pliosaurs were a type of plesiosaur with a short neck but were equipped with very large skull muscles probably 3-4 times larger than those on a crocodile. The excavation of the fossil had to be done freezing temperatures while surviving high winds, rain, and polar bears. In addition, paleontologists found bones and teeth that appear to belong to a second specimen. Other previously removed fossils include plesiosaurs and ichthyosaurs

Archaeological studies of middens (trash piles) with fossil bones indicate Native Americans likely drove a flightless California bird to extinction. The goose sized Chendytes had stubby wings and were unable to fly but were excellent underwater swimmers. They lived along the California and Oregon coast, many times on islands where they were safe from predators. But starting 12,000 years ago (about the time the natives began building boats), their bones began showing up in the middens of indigenous Californians. The birds were fairly meaty with large drumsticks, which likely made them appealing as a source of food. Study of the middens show a gradual decline in the number of bones of these birds until they disappear about 2,500 years ago. The fact that it took almost 8,000 years to kill a relatively defenseless animals brings into doubt some theories that humans migration to North America were responsible for the extinction of over 35 large species in less than 1,000 years say some scientists.

Paleontology news 3/16/08

<http://www.paleontologynews.com/story.asp?ID=270786&Title=Mastodon%20skeleton%20up%20for%20auction%20on%20eBay>

Now is your chance! A family in California is putting up their 3 million year old Mastodon skeleton for sale. (Gives all new meaning to heirloom). The fossil was found on a ranch near Mount Shasta in 1997. The skeleton is nearly complete but is missing the tusks. It spent some time in the Oakland museum but is now up for sale on E-Bay, asking price, \$115,000. Anyone have any spare change.

BBC 12 March 2008,

Debates continue over *Homo floresiensis*, the fossil remains commonly known as "Hobbit". Similar fossil remains have been found on the islands of Palau, which are 1,200 miles away from the original fossils found on the Indonesian island of Flores. This has increased the debate over whether the fossils represent new species or simply a diseased or ill *Homo Sapiens* specimen. The fossil remains of 26 individuals were found by a professor from South Africa while he was kayaking around the Palau islands while on vacation. The fossils have been dated to between 1,400 to 3,000 years old. The individuals would have been about 4 ft. tall and weighed between 65-95 pounds. Professor Berger, who found the remains believe that they may simply be modern humans who became smaller because of the island life or due to genetic problems.

<http://www.paleontologynews.com/link.asp?ID=269258&Title=Fossilized%20Giant%20Rhino%20Bone%20Questions%20Isolation%20Of%20Anatolia,%2025%20...>

From ScienceDaily (Mar. 10, 2008) —Based on analysis of fossil rhino bones found in Anatolia (Turkey) dated to the Oligocene (25 million year ago), indications are the animal migrations happened between Asia and Europe at that time. Previously it was thought that Anatolia was an isolated string of islands in this epoch. The fossil forearm from an indricotheres is the first giant rhinocertoid of the Oligocene found in this area. The indricotheres is the largest land animal ever to exist and was as big as a mammoth (15 ft at the shoulder and between 15-20 tons.

BBC 26 March 200

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7313005.stm>

Fossil human remains found in Northern Spain are the oldest to date. The teeth and jawbones, which are 1.2 million years old were found in caves near Burgos Spain. In addition, stone tools and butchered animal bones were also found. The site is several hundred yards from other fossil human sites. The fossils appear to be related to other human remains found in Dmanisi, Georgia (1.7 million years old) indicating humans may have populated Europe from the east. These fossils may be from a distinct species, *Homo antecessor*, but it still needs to be determined if this is an ancestor of Neanderthals or modern humans.

www.redorbit.com/news/science/1314069/paleontologists_discover_ancient_crocodylian_ancestor/index.html

Paleontologists in northeast Brazil have found a new species of crocodile (dyrosaurid) in a quarry near Recife. The fossils indicate that this species survived the K-T extinction of 65 million years ago. The remains of the *Guarinisuchus munizi* include skull, jaw, and vertebrae. The scientists believe that this crocodile may have spread to South America after crossing over the Atlantic ocean.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/03/080326-ancient-reptile.html>

March 26, 2008— A fossilized plesiosaur found in a mine in Canada is providing new information to paleontologists. The species named *Nichollisia borealis*, which is from the Cretaceous, is both a new species and genus. The fossil was found hundreds of feet below ground entombed in sandstone, which preserved the 9 feet long animal almost perfectly. The fossil was removed from the oil sands mine and moved to the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta, Canada. CT scans have provided much more details than in previous fossils.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/03/080324-lizard-evolution.html>

A 130 million year old fossil found in Japan is the oldest known plant-eating lizard. The lizard known as *Kuwajimalla kagaensis* was 10-12 inches long. Herbivorous lizards are rare even today as most are either carnivorous or omnivorous. Since most modern plant-eating lizards eat flowering plants,

this many indicate that flowering plants originated much earlier than thought. The oldest fossils of flowering plants are about 125 million years old.

Reuters UK (www.paleontologynews.com 3/24/08)
A new species of dinosaur has been found in the Mexican desert that is related to the Triceratops. The new dino was 23 feet long (smaller than a Tric) but had 3 feet long horns and holes in the neck frill. A new name for the dinosaur has not been determined yet. The new find comes after the discovery of a duck-billed dinosaur (*Velafrons coahuilensis*) found in February.

[HTTP://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/03/080328-dinosaur-bus.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/03/080328-dinosaur-bus.html)

March 28, 2008—A mysterious package found on a bus in Peru was definitely something out of the ordinary. Police seized the package as it had no identification and was very heavy. When the worried police opened the package they found a 19-pound jawbone. An archaeologist at the University identified it as a triceratops jaw (I don't know much but it is obviously not a tric jaw from the photo – DLL). But a paleontologist from the US stated that it was definitely a mammal and most likely belonged to a proboscidean, or elephant relative.

BBC 1 April 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7324564.stm>

Scientists are using giant X-ray machines to see inside of opaque amber and identify tiny insects from 100 million years ago. The paleontologists have been examining blocks of amber from the Charentes area of France. So far they have found over 360 fossils animals including wasps, flies, spiders, and ants. Most of the fossils are very small, from 0.8mm (<1/25 of an inch) to 4 mm (1/6 inch). Some of the specimens are preserved with their legs flailing while others became trapped after their death. One of the interesting aspects of this study is that based on the information the scientists can make a 3D computer model and can even have the information sent to a 3-D plastic printer which will make a physical model of the fossil.

Articles submitted by Clarence Zacher

Sorry – I did not have time to put in Clarence's articles this month. They will be in the May issue.

Websites

Have you spotted a website about fossils for paleontology that peaked your interest. Thought that others might like it. If so, send me a note along with the website address and a brief summary of what is there.

Around Town

Upcoming Rock / Gem / Fossil shows

April 2008

(<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>)

12-13--CANTON, ILLINOIS: Fulton County Rockhounds; Wallace Park; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; contact Steven Holley, (309) 231-8861; e-mail: ilfossil@hotmail.com;

18-20--DECATUR, ILLINOIS: 56th annual show; Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club; Lutheran High School, 2001 E. Mound Rd.; Fri. 3-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$2, children 15 and under free

18-20--JOPLIN, MISSOURI: 2nd annual outdoor rock swap; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Reddings Mill Inn, intersection of Hwy. 86 and NN, just south of Joplin; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-3; free admission;

MAY 2008:

9-11--COLUMBIA, MISSOURI: Rock swap; Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club; Boone County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 63 N. and Oakland Gravel Rd.; Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 8-3; free admission;

JUNE 2008:

13-15--PARK HILLS, MISSOURI: 11th annual swap and sale; Mineral Area Gem & Mineral Society, Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs; Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Hwy. 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; free admission; rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary;

21-22--OZARK, MISSOURI: Show, "Gem Fair 2008"; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Finley River Park, 205 N. First St., by the Bull Ring; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission;

27-29--BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA: 43rd annual show/swap; Lawrence County Rock Club; Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Airport Rd.; Fri. 10-6:30, Sat. 9-6:30, Sun. 10-4; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, rocks, lapidary equipment, rockhound and prospecting supplies, 4-H and ect science project material; contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, (812) 295-3463; Web site: www.

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Reports

If you have suggestions for field trip locations, please e-mail them to me and I will begin putting together a list.

Coon Creek is located near Henderson TN (west central) about 4 ½ hours from STL. The site has over 600 fossil species (though many are rare). Common are bivalves and gastropods, crab claws and ghost shrimp burrows. Rare are ammonites, baculites, shark, turtle and mosasaur remains. Parsons quarry (nearby) is full of Devonian aged fossils, including crinoids, brachiopods, gastropods, bryozoans, etc.

NEEDED

We are still looking for more donations of small fossils (quarter size or smaller) for the fossil boards. We are especially in need of small trilobites (the Utah ones are best) were also looking for horn corals, other corals, gastropods, bryozoans, and other donations.

CONTACTS

Do you need to find out something about the next meeting or have questions on the next field trip? If so, please talk to or contact one of the EMSP officers.

President – Don Howell

(donhowelliii@sbcglobal.net, cel 314-954-6922)

Vice-President: Bruce Stinchcomb

Treasurer: Pete Smith

Secretaries: David Lukens

(dmslukens@yahoo.com, cel 636-751-8746) and

Abby Lee

DUES ARE DUE

Our treasurer, Pete Smith will accept dues payment for a full year. **Dues are \$15.00 per household per year-payable in January.** If you join in the middle of the year the amount will be prorated. See Pete at the next meeting or mail a check (payable to Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology) to:

EMSP

P.O. Box 220273

St. Louis, MO. 63122

Distribution of the Newsletter by email

Can't find your newsletter, just when you need it for a trip? Then sign up for the e-mail version. This also saves the club money so we can bring in speakers (once we pick some...) E-mail requests to dmslukens@yahoo.com, motirek@gmail.com or abfactor@gmail.com



Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month (except July, August, and December) in room 203 of the new Earth & Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. The Earth & Planetary Sciences building is on the southwest corner of Hoyt Drive and Forest Park Pkwy. There is a large parking lot just across the street.

What is EMSP?

The Eastern Missouri Society for Paleontology (EMSP) is a not-for-profit organization Dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of fossil collecting. It is open to all individuals interested in learning about the history of life on earth. The club membership includes professional paleontologists as well as amateur hobbyists. The EMSP provides an open forum for the exchange of information and access to expertise on collecting, identifying, preparing and displaying fossils.

EMSP meetings are held on the second Friday of every month (except July, August and December) at 7:30pm in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Building on the campus of Washington University. Each meeting includes an informal exchange of information and speakers on a variety of fossil-related topics.

Weather permitting, field trips to fossil collection localities around the St. Louis area are held each month. Led by experienced collectors, these trips are a fun way to augment discussions at the monthly meetings. The club participates in joint field trips with other paleo clubs, visiting fossil sites throughout the United States. EMSP is also a proud to be involved in partnerships with the St. Louis Science Center and the Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc.

**Eastern Missouri Society For Paleontology
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